

Appendix table 7-5

## Public interest in selected issues, by respondent characteristic: 2010

(Percent)

Characteristic	New medical discoveries			Local school issues			Environmental pollution			Economic issues/business conditions			New scientific discoveries		
	Very interested (n = 883)	Moderately interested (n = 499)	Not at all interested (n = 66)	Very interested (n = 798)	Moderately interested (n = 506)	Not at all interested (n = 142)	Very interested (n = 677)	Moderately interested (n = 652)	Not at all interested (n = 118)	Very interested (n = 654)	Moderately interested (n = 641)	Not at all interested (n = 152)	Very interested (n = 576)	Moderately interested (n = 746)	Not at all interested (n = 123)
All adults (n = 1,461)	60	35	5	54	36	9	46	46	7	44	45	10	41	50	8
Sex															
Male (n = 592)	54	41	5	45	42	13	44	46	9	44	46	10	46	46	7
Female (n = 869)	65	30	4	61	31	7	48	45	6	45	44	10	37	54	8
Formal education															
<High school (n = 190)	56	35	9	56	32	11	47	39	13	36	46	18	39	42	17
High school graduate (n = 463)	59	34	6	56	33	10	45	44	10	37	49	14	34	55	10
Some college (n = 370)	63	32	4	57	35	7	48	46	6	45	46	9	43	52	5
Baccalaureate (n = 274)	59	39	1	48	39	12	42	52	4	53	42	5	47	50	2
Graduate/professional degree (n = 164)	60	35	3	47	43	7	48	46	3	61	34	2	48	47	2
Science/mathematics education <sup>a</sup>															
Low (n = 477)	58	36	6	59	31	9	47	42	10	37	46	17	35	55	11
Middle (n = 194)	62	33	4	51	39	9	45	49	5	43	49	7	40	53	6
High (n = 205)	62	37	1	48	40	12	47	48	5	57	40	4	55	43	2
Family income (quartile) <sup>b</sup>															
Top (n = 275)	57	38	2	53	38	7	45	49	4	53	40	5	44	50	3
Second (n = 337)	59	38	3	57	34	9	44	51	5	42	50	8	37	57	6
Third (n = 307)	55	41	3	55	39	7	47	47	6	45	48	8	35	59	5
Bottom (n = 392)	65	28	7	56	33	11	51	39	10	41	44	14	49	39	11
Age (years) <sup>b</sup>															
18–24 (n = 79)	55	36	9	45	39	16	40	51	9	44	43	13	50	42	8
25–34 (n = 277)	56	37	7	58	32	9	42	49	9	40	47	11	33	57	9
35–44 (n = 267)	53	41	5	62	31	6	42	47	10	38	51	9	40	52	7
45–54 (n = 271)	61	35	3	50	41	9	49	45	5	46	42	11	47	47	5
55–64 (n = 264)	65	31	3	53	34	12	51	43	5	48	44	7	40	52	8
≥65 (n = 296)	68	28	2	49	40	9	49	42	7	49	39	10	39	49	9

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## Public interest in selected issues, by respondent characteristic: 2010

(Percent)

Characteristic	Use of new inventions/technologies			Military/defense policy			Agricultural/farm issues			Space exploration			International/foreign policy issues		
	Very interested (n = 571)	Moderately interested (n = 722)	Not at all interested (n = 152)	Very interested (n = 555)	Moderately interested (n = 684)	Not at all interested (n = 207)	Very interested (n = 372)	Moderately interested (n = 797)	Not at all interested (n = 275)	Very interested (n = 329)	Moderately interested (n = 711)	Not at all interested (n = 406)	Very interested (n = 331)	Moderately interested (n = 697)	Not at all interested (n = 410)
All adults (n = 1,461)	40	48	10	37	47	15	25	55	20	23	49	27	22	48	29
Sex															
Male (n = 592)	49	41	10	44	43	13	29	52	19	30	48	21	30	44	26
Female (n = 869)	33	55	11	31	51	16	22	57	20	18	50	31	16	51	31
Formal education															
<High school (n = 190)	37	45	18	35	46	18	31	48	20	22	40	37	11	37	49
High school graduate (n = 463)	35	48	16	34	49	16	23	54	22	19	51	30	14	45	39
Some college (n = 370)	42	50	7	34	50	15	27	57	16	25	50	24	23	51	26
Baccalaureate (n = 274)	43	53	3	41	46	11	21	56	22	28	48	24	30	57	13
Graduate/professional degree (n = 164)	50	43	5	45	40	12	22	57	18	26	55	16	44	46	7
Science/mathematics education <sup>a</sup>															
Low (n = 477)	36	47	17	35	47	17	27	53	20	20	44	35	17	45	37
Middle (n = 194)	41	51	7	32	50	17	19	57	22	23	54	21	28	51	19
High (n = 205)	52	47	*	41	48	12	27	52	22	28	51	21	33	55	12
Family income (quartile) <sup>b</sup>															
Top (n = 275)	40	53	4	43	45	10	22	60	16	20	57	20	33	50	15
Second (n = 337)	43	48	9	37	52	11	27	55	18	25	50	25	23	51	26
Third (n = 307)	39	51	10	34	51	15	27	57	16	22	51	27	22	51	26
Bottom (n = 392)	41	45	13	36	44	19	26	52	21	28	40	31	14	44	41
Age (years) <sup>b</sup>															
18–24 (n = 79)	53	34	13	16	63	20	19	43	38	25	48	28	8	47	44
25–34 (n = 277)	38	50	10	30	47	22	19	54	27	21	48	30	13	48	38
35–44 (n = 267)	36	54	9	27	55	16	21	62	15	26	48	26	20	50	29
45–54 (n = 271)	43	47	10	41	45	13	27	60	12	24	49	27	25	46	28
55–64 (n = 264)	39	50	11	45	44	10	31	51	17	23	53	23	29	46	24
≥65 (n = 296)	38	50	10	53	37	8	29	51	17	20	49	28	32	48	16

\* = &lt;0.5% responded

<sup>a</sup>Low = ≤5 high school and college science/math courses; middle = 6–8 courses; high = ≥9 courses. Questions asked of 983 survey respondents; categories do not add to total because "don't know" and "refused" responses not shown.<sup>b</sup>Categories do not add to total because "don't know" and "refused" responses not shown.

NOTES: Responses to There are a lot of issues in the news, and it is hard to keep up with every area. I'm going to read you a short list of issues, and for each one I would like you to tell me if you are very interested, moderately interested, or not at all interested. Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding and because "don't know" and "refused" responses not shown.

SOURCE: University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey (2010).